Maple Leaf Rag

SLSO Learning Lab

ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

For Music Educators

For grades 3–6

Objectives

Students will:

- Identify and make connections between the European and African influences in Scott Joplin's music and the history of the United States of America in the 19th century
- Identify the form of Scott Joplin's *Maple Leaf Rag*
- Create contrasting movements to illustrate the form of Scott Joplin's *Maple Leaf Rag*

Standards

Missouri Music Learning Standards

- MU: Re7A.3-6a
- MU: Re7B.3-6a, 6b

Illinois Music Learning Standards

- MU: Re7.1.3-5a
- MU: Re7.1.3-5b, 6c

Materials

- Recording of *Maple Leaf Rag* by Scott Joplin
- Scott Joplin biography in Google Slides

Vocabulary

- Ragtime/Rag
- Form

Requirements to satisfy learning objectives

- Explore ways to create contrast among movements such as levels, directions, or efforts
- Provide an opportunity for student-created movement to accompany each section of *Maple Leaf Rag*, requiring students to incorporate at least one of the contrasting elements to differentiate between A, B, C, and D sections

Approximate timings

YouTube recording

- Introduction = 0:00 – 0:05
- A = 0:06–0:26
- A = 0:27–0:47
- B = 0:48–1:08
- B = 1:09–1:27
- A = 1:28–1:48
- C = 1:49–2:08
- C = 2:09–2:29
- D = 2:30–2:49
- D = 2:50–3:11
- Coda (or ending) = 3:12-3:16

Assessment (3-point rubric)

Maple Leaf Rag Form and Student-Created Movements

Student successfully:

- Identifies the form of *Maple Leaf Rag*
- Creates 16 (or 8+8) measure movement phrases clearly outlining the contrasting themes of *Maple Leaf Rag*
- Incorporates at least one contrasting element such as levels, directions, or efforts to differentiate between the four sections



Ragtime is a genre or style of music characterized by its unique blend of European classical style and African harmony and rhythm.

Listen to Scott Joplin's *Maple Leaf Rag*. Do you think this is an example of popular music or classical music? Scott Joplin, the "King of Ragtime," lived right here in St. Louis, Missouri. In fact, his house still stands only a few blocks east of Powell Hall, home of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. In the 19th century, Ragtime was a style of popular music. Joplin wrote *Maple Leaf Rag* in 1899. Named after a club in Sedalia, Missouri, it is one of his most famous rags. Scott Joplin was so famous for his rags, he was like the Beyoncé of the late 19th-century.

View these Google Slides to learn more about Scott Joplin. How do you think that someone living in Missouri in the late 1800s could have both European and African influences in their music?

Listening Map

The following listening map illustrates the form of *Maple Leaf Rag*. In music, the word form refers to the structure of a musical composition. It is the sequence of different sections, each containing different musical ideas. We can label these sections with uppercase letters and refer to them using those letters: for example, "Section A." Composers create patterns within a composition by choosing to repeat certain sections. The form of *Maple Leaf Rag* (AABBACCDD) closely resembles that of a European march. Follow along with the listening map as you listen to *Maple Leaf Rag*.

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